

Message Text

PAGE 01 PORT A 00982 182213 Z

72

ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-01

SCA-01 PRS-01 L-02 SY-02 FBIE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /058 W
----- 121330

R 182140 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO COMNAVBASE GTMO CUBA

SECSTATE WASHDC 6584

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

CNO WASHDC

DOD/ISA WASHDC

COMCARIBSEAFRON SAN JUAN PR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0982

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: AGDS 12/31/74

TAGS: PINS, HA

SUBJ: HAITIAN REFUGEES

REF: COMNAVBASE GTMO #1184, 171143 Z JUN 73; PORT AU PRINCE 0972

1. VICE CONSUL KLEINKAUF, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY POL OFF
DE SANTILLANA, INTERVIEWED FOUR HAITIANS AT GUANTANAMO
JUNE 18. RESULTS OF INTERVIEW AS FOLLOWS:

2. NAMES OF HAITIANS ARE: FITO CAMAN, BORN FEB 5, 1958
IN PORT- AU- PRINCE; MERSON CAMAN, BORN DEC 22, 1952 IN
PORT- AU- PRINCE; MERCIDIEU CAMAN, BORN AUGUST 12, 1951 IN
LEOGANE; LOUIS CAMAN, BORN JULY 5, 1955 IN PORT- AU- PRINCE.
FITO CAMAN, MERSON CAMAN, AND MERCIDIEU CAMAN GAVE HOME
ADDRESS AS 55 PORTAIL ST. JOSEPH, PORT- AU- PRINCE. LOUIS
CAMAN GAVE ADDRESS AS NO. 39, RUE 9, PORT- AU- PRINCE.
ALL FOUR ARE HALF- BROTHERS, HAVING SAME FATHER BUT
DIFFERENT MOTHERS. ALL ARE SINGLE, AND GAVE
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PAGE 02 PORT A 00982 182213 Z

OCCUPATION AS SAILOR OR FISHERMAN.

3. ALTHOUGH THE FOUR HAITIANS DIFFERED SOMEWHAT ON DETAILS
OF THEIR TRAVELS AFTER LEAVING HAITI, ALL STATED THAT THEY

LEFT PORT- AU- PRINCE IN A SMALL BOAT ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO, BOUND FOR MIAMI. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS, THEY ALL STATE THAT THEY WERE MOTIVATED BY ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, PRIMARILY THEIR INABILITY TO EARN A LIVING IN HAITI AND CARE FOR THEIR LARGE FAMILIES (OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS). ALL EXPECTED TO FIND WORK IN THE UNITED STATES AND SEND MONEY BACK TO THEIR RELATIVES IN HAITI.

4. HAITIANS REPORTED THEY LEFT FROM PORT- AU- PRINCE, AND AFTER ABOUT 10 DAYS SAIL, LANDED SOMEWHERE IN CUBA. THEY GAVE NAME OF TOWN AS (PHONETICALLY) " AOCO". CUBAN AUTHORITIES PUT THEM IN JAIL TEMPORARILY AND OFFERED THEM ASYLUM. HAITIANS DECLINED, SAYING THEY WISHED TO GO TO MIAMI, AND SET SAIL FROM CUBA AFTER STAY RANGING FROM ONE TO TEN DAYS, DEPENDING ON DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS OF THE FOUR. ALL AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WERE PICKED UP BY A US SHIP (THE NEW YORKER) ABOUT TEN DAYS AFTER LEAVING CUBA.

5. EMBOFFS ASKED ALL HAITIANS SEPARATELY WHETHER THEY EVER HAD ANY DIFFICULTY WITH HAITIAN POLICE OR GOVERNMENT OR HAD ANY REASON TO FEAR PERSECUTION BY HAITIAN AUTHORITIES. ALL EMPHATICALLY DENIED THEY HAD EVER BEEN ARRESTED IN ANY TROUBLE WITH THE LAW IN HAITI. EACH REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT ONLY REASON FOR LEAVING HAITI WAS TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE US.

6. EMBOFFS ASKED WHETHER HAITIANS HAD ANY RELATIVES OR CLOSE FRIENDS LIVING IN THE US. ALL SAID THEY DID, BUT WERE UNABLE TO RECALL COMPLETE NAMES OR ADDRESSES.

7. ALL HAITIANS SAID THEY HAD NEVER APPLIED FOR A HAITIAN PASSPORT OR A VISA TO THE US OWING TO LACK OF MONEY. EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD ON ANY OF SUBJECTS IN VISA OR POLITICAL FILES.

8. COMMENT: TO EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO INTERVIEWED THEM,
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PAGE 03 PORT A 00982 182213 Z

HAITIANS APPEARED POOR, SIMPLE, STRAIGHTFORWARD FISHERMEN TRYING TO GET TO THE US TO BETTER THEIR LOT IN LIFE. THEY MADE NO CLAIM TO BEING POLITICAL REFUGEES, AND IN FACT EMPHATICALLY DENIED DOING ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT CAUSE THEM TO BE CONSIDERED POLITICAL REFUGEES.
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